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THE

THE

RANGE

GRAZING

RIDER

BULLETIN

DID YOU EVER HEAR OF A SNOW CORRAL?

One of the most unique developments in connection with the range improvement program in the State of Wyoming is the building up of high snow banks in order that a sizeable supply of water may be guaranteed for reservoirs.

Not long ago the story of a prospector in Alaska who, without funds, was able to compete with a well-financed mining company in the operation of mining claims, came to the attention of one or our district advisers. The large mining company spent thousands of dollars for water to be used in sluicing the precious gold "pay dirt." The prospector was decidedly handicapped in this respect; however, using his inventive ability, he contrived several "panels" which were placed in the manner of a fence around his claim. These panels served as a drift fence and caused the snow that fell to pile up. As rapidly as one section of the fence fulfilled its purpose, another panel was placed directly above, and the process repeated until finally a snowdrift 40 feet in height had been built up. As the snow melted in the spring it was ditched into a reservoir. Ample water was provided at a reasonable expense and the prospector was able to effectively compete with the mining company.

In the Wyoming region where precipitation is none too great and the wind has a way of blowing "toward Nebraska", the old prospector's idea of building up snow banks to provide water has been adopted. These drifts of snow are corralled on the brinks of reservoirs so that the water will flow directly into the reservoir when the snow begins to melt. Regardless of spring run-off, a fair amount of water is assured for each reservoir.

This method of corralling snows for water for livestock on the range may prove very profitable in the northern desert areas where the snowfall is not excessive. --H.J. Burback.

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WASHINGTON

Vol. 2, No. 11

## THE BEEFSTEAK TRAIL

Of special interest to the Grazing Service is an article in the March issue of New Mexico, by N. Harry Champlin, "a Sunday School missionary covering some 10,000 square miles of territory, most of which is cattle country." Mr. Champlin tells of experiences on a cattle drive from Reserve, New Mexico to Magdalena over our own Magdalena Stock Driveway. He writes:

"The second day at noon found us rounding over the Great Continental Divide at an elevation of seventy-five hundred feet. From now on the trail led over the rolling San Agustin plains. Here we entered the 'driveway.' Ever since cattlemen first come into this country and drove their cattle to the nearest railroad for marketing this particular strip of land has been used as a driveway. Originally just a well-marked trail through the wide open spaces, it gradually became fenced, but the cattlemen insisted upon their right to the driveway. Today the driveway stretches from the Divide for fifty-eight miles northeast through Horse Springs to Datil and east to Magdalena, the shipping point. During the last four years the boundaries of the driveway have been fenced and extra watering places provided by the Division of Grazing....."

The story of the beefsteak trail as told by the "Preacher" is extremely interesting and close to home! Our thanks to Bud Dierking for bringing it to our attention.

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## EVIDENCE IN FACT

In connection with the article which appears on the first page of this issue of The Range Rider, we learn from Mr. Charles J. Belden who is a user in Wyoming Grazing District No. 5 and who called at the office a few days ago, that "if it had not been for Grazing Service reservoirs and water developments in my country, there just would not have been any grazing on those areas during the last months of 1939."

Incidentally, Mr. Belden has provided the picture which will be used on the cover of the March issue of The Grazing Bulletin. We think you will like it--it typifies Spring on western ranges!

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Chief of Accounts Fowler returned to the Washington office a few days ago, following an extended inspection trip which took him to every region during recent months. Mr. Fowler, who looked very fit upon his return, reports satisfactory progress in field offices.

Also from the accounting section comes news that Bob Price, whose engagement was announced in a recent issue of The Range Rider, is getting pretty nervous along about now. The wedding takes place on March 16, at Falls Church, Virginia. The kind of "moral support" Bob is getting from his co-workers isn't helping much.

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CALLING MR. COYOTE

The musical "little red fox" is reported to be quite a smart little fellow but we doubt if even he could survive a campaign the like of which is being waged from the air against treacherous Mr. Coyote on Montana ranges.

Mr. John Etchart of Tampico, Montana (who incidentally is the first district adviser to accept The Range Rider's invitation to participate in this publication) writes that his son, Gene, is hunting coyotes from an airplane. Young Mr. Etchart and an associate have killed more than one hundred coyotes in this manner during the winter season. Many of the coyotes killed had been crippled by traps or otherwise and consequently were bolder and flagrant killers of lambs and sheep, wild game and fowl.

Much interest in this effort has been displayed by stockmen in Montana Grazing District No. 1, some of whom have voluntarily contributed to the cause.

Continued "Booster" Etchart: "The Taylor grazing program is working satisfactorily in our district. It should have been put into effect 30 years ago--before so much soil got turned wrong side out. But we are in the right tract to restore it to its proper and natural use--GRASS." Mr. E. adds: "...and no better grass grows anywhere than in Montana!"

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USE, WITHOUT WASTE

To insure full protection, conservation, and utilization wherever possible of the forage resources on reclamation withdrawals within Federal grazing districts but on which withdrawals there are no active projects under construction or operation, Secretary of the Interior Ickes has approved a cooperative land-use agreement between the Grazing Service and the Bureau of Reclamation. The parallel interests of this Service and the Bureau of Reclamation in the conservation of land and water will be served by this scheme.

Reclamation areas within grazing districts which it is determined should be grazed will be administered by the Grazing Service under the Federal Range Code, and grazing fees will be the same as those prescribed for lands withdrawn under the Taylor Grazing Act.

This agreement will make possible the use of forage on withdrawn lands which might otherwise be wasted without changing the status of those lands. It will contribute to the stabilization of the western livestock industry and thereby benefit local communities and States, and be a factor in national conservation and welfare.

Chief of Lands Archie Ryan estimates that approximately ten million acres of federally controlled land in the West will be subject to the terms of this cooperative agreement.

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SAFER

"Bud" Molohon was looking very happy the other day and when the reason came to light, we certainly couldn't blame him.

The Grazing Service in January hit an all-time low in its lost-time accident frequency rate in Civilian Conservation Corps camps. Per 10,000 men, this accident rate was only .99 for January as compared to 1.53 for November 1939. The severity rate was also low, being .280 per 10,000 men.

Such an improvement is gratifying to the folks in the safety-training section who have been giving the matter of safety their most careful attention. They realize, however, that it is the united effort of everyone connected with the work program that has made this record possible.

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PIERCE ACT

Word is reaching this office of numerous contacts with State Land Commissioners and county officials relative to the leasing of land under the Pierce Act. This plan of proper land-use is receiving wide-spread approval of western stockmen.

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LECTURES

Hugh Bryan, Range Examiner, will deliver a series of lectures and discussions on range management and associated subjects at the Oregon Agricultural College, April 1 to 6. Hugh is carrying on the work of Bud Molohon in this connection in previous years.

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Mr. R. G. Cole, President of the Idaho Wildlife Federation, in his annual report on March 3 expressed appreciation for the cooperation rendered by the Grazing Service in wildlife advancement. Mr. Cole made special mention of the cooperation of this Service in the development of wildlife restoration projects under Pittman-Robertson funds.

Mr. Cole, who has been President of the Federation for the past four years, was succeeded by Mr. Wegener of Boise, Idaho at the recent election of officers.

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Word has just reached the Washington office that Non-technical Foreman Roy Whitcomb, G-144, Wood River, Idaho, passed away on Sunday, March 10. Mr. Whitcomb has been with the Grazing Service since 1935 and had established an enviable reputation as a loyal and faithful employee and a friend of the enrollees under his supervision. His death is a distinct loss to this organization.

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